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EXTRA FEATURE!
PRIVATE LIVES™
SUICIDE SQUAD
by OSTRANDER, NOLAN & DZON
REVEALED AT LAST--The Secret of ARGENT!
GUEST-STARRING MANHUNTER

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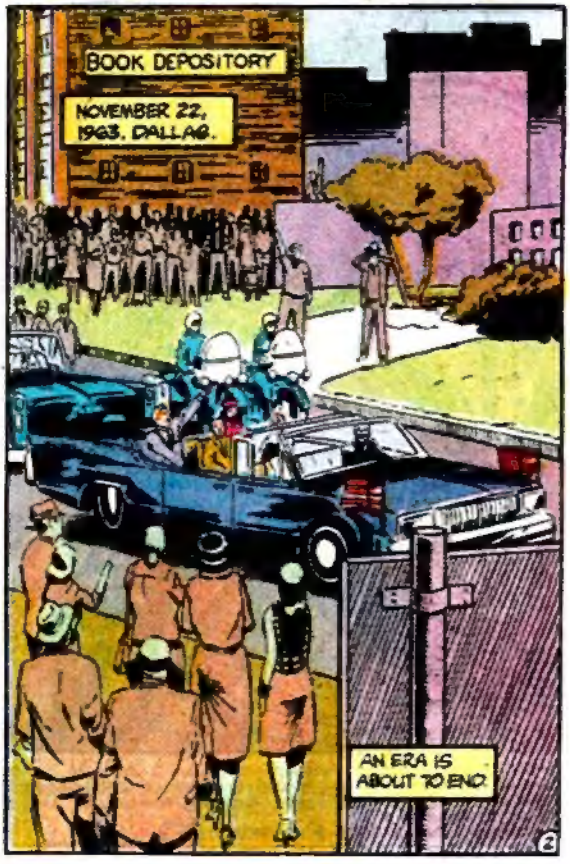
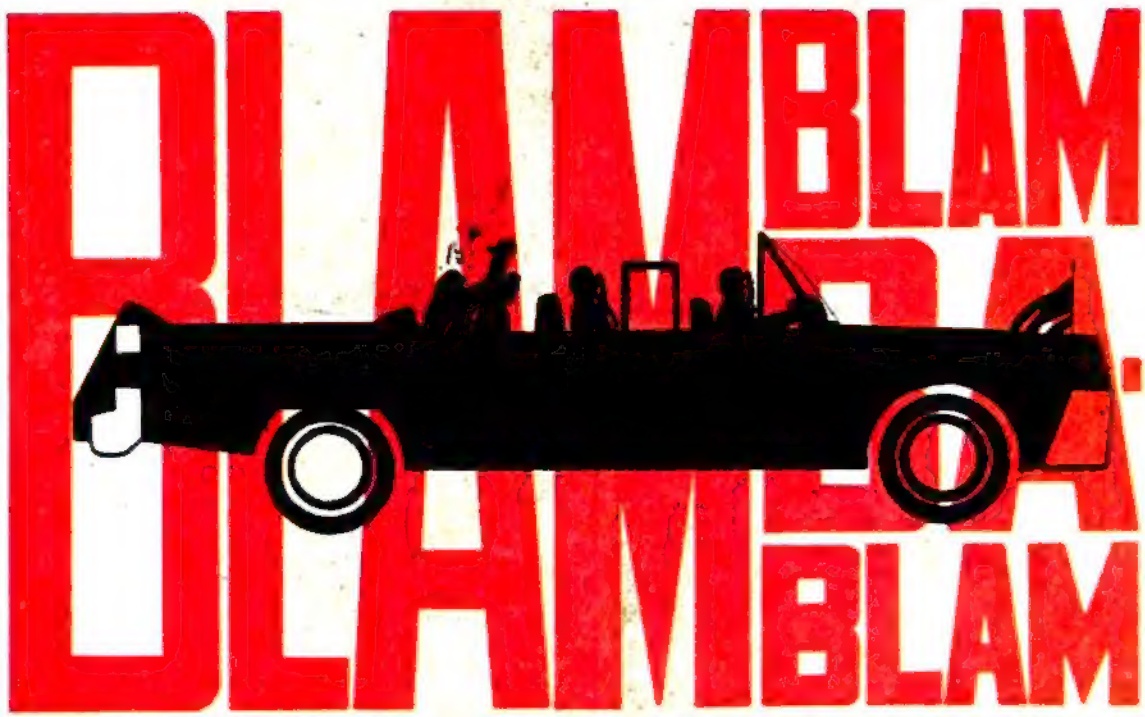
PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN, TO COMPENSATE FOR THE SUDDEN LOSS OF THE "MISTERY MEN" DRIVEN UNDERGROUND BY SENATOR JOE McCARTHY, CREATED TASK FORCE X.

THE TASK FORCE HAD A MILITARY AND A CIVILIAN SIDE. THE MILITARY END WAS KNOWN AS THE SUICIDE SQUAD AND WAS UNDER THE OVERALL COMMAND OF GENERAL J.E.B. STUART, THE REKNOWNED TANK COMMANDER FROM THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

THE CIVILIAN END BECAME KNOWN AS *ARGENT*, HEADED BY A FORMER *O.S.S.* CHIEF KNOWN ONLY AS *CONTROL*.

HIS AGENTS WERE ALL HANDPICKED PEOPLE HE HAD WORKED WITH DURING THE WAR, AND THEY WERE ALL TREMENDOUSLY EFFECTIVE.

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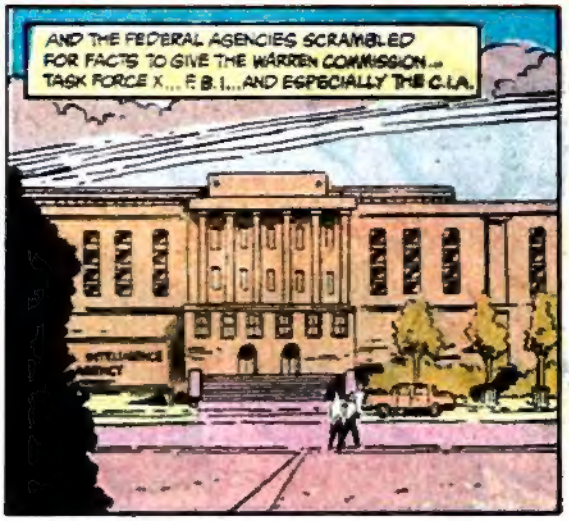
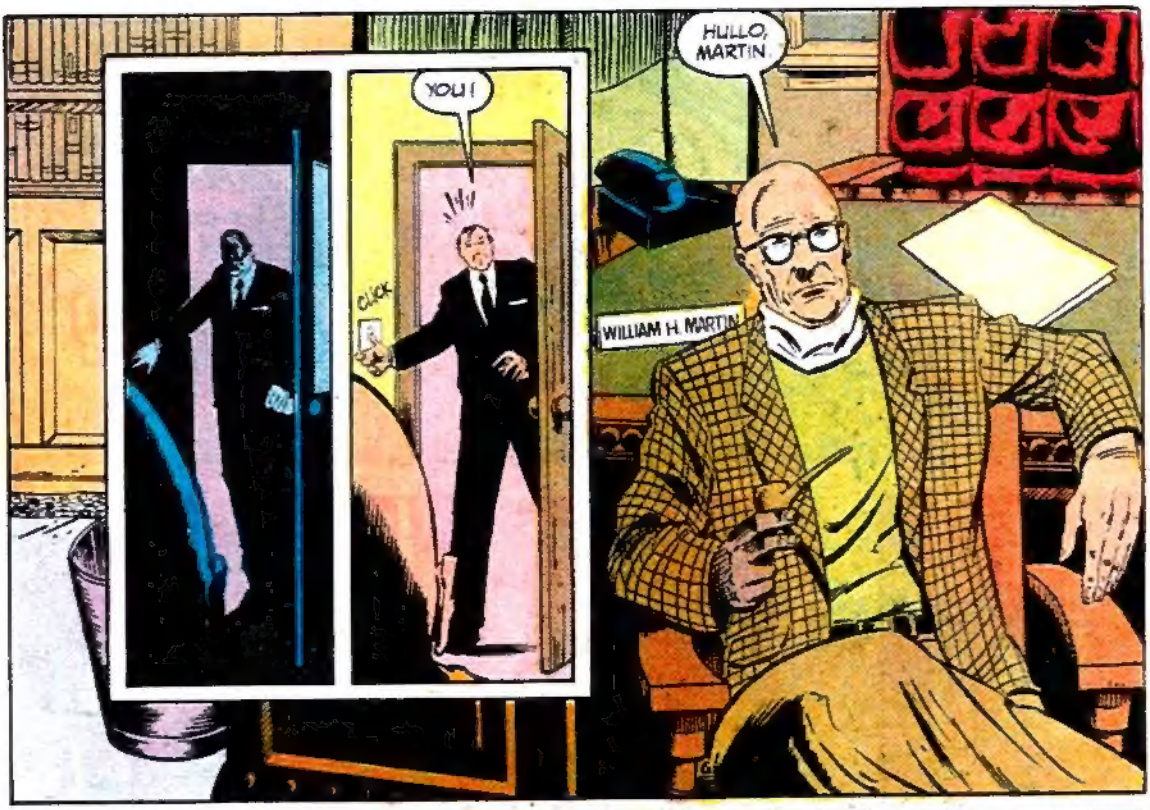

AND THE FEDERAL AGENCIES SCRAMBLED FOR FACTS TO GIVE THE WARREN COMMISSION... TASK FORCE X... F.B.I... AND ESPECIALLY THE C.I.A.


YOU!
CLICK
HULLO, MARTIN.
WILLIAM H. MARTIN

YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK...?
READ THE FILE. WE'VE UNEARTHED SOMETHING REGARDING J.F.K'S DEATH.
MARTIN

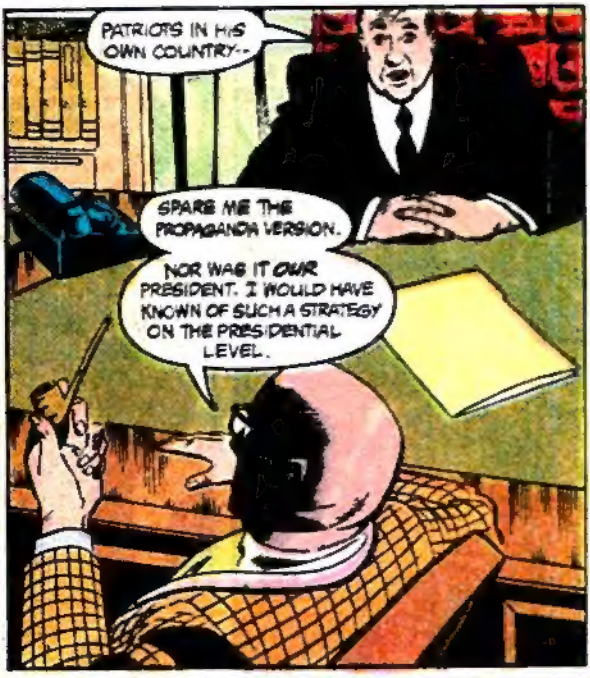
MY GOD! THIS INDICATES THE ASSASSINATION WAS SPONSORED BY...!
...A SMALL, HOSTILE NEIGHBORING COUNTRY, WHICH IMPLICATES -- BY EXTENSION -- THE SUPER-POWER SPONSORING THAT COUNTRY. YES

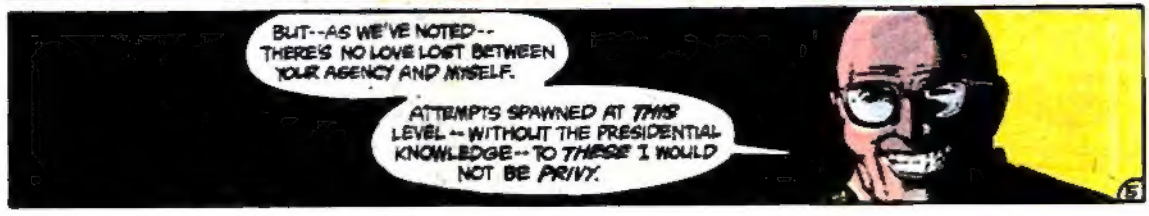
THEY BLAMED OUR PRESIDENT FOR THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS ON THEIR PREMIER. THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE ASSASSIN. OSWALD WAS JUST THE ONE WE CAUGHT.
HOW CERTAIN ARE YOU OF THESE DATA?

VERY. WE PAID FOR IT WITH ENOUGH OF MY PEOPLE'S BLOOD.
WELL, WE'LL HAVE TO GET THIS TO THE WARREN COMMISSION RIGHT AWAY.

YOU REALIZE WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS INFORMATION BECOMES PUBLIC? THE OUTCRY COULD WELL SET THE STAGE FOR WORLD WAR III.
YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING WE SIT ON THIS, ARE YOU? LOOK, I'LL ADMIT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY LOVE LOST BETWEEN OUR AGENCY AND YOURS...

MORE EXACTLY, BETWEEN THE C.I.A. AND MYSELF.
NO, I SIMPLY SUGGEST WE GET THE WHOLE STORY OUT--SUCH AS WHO WAS REALLY BEHIND THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS ON OUR NEIGHBOR'S PREMIER.


PATRIOTS IN HIS OWN COUNTRY--
SPARE ME THE PROPAGANDA VERSION.
NOR WAS IT OUR PRESIDENT. I WOULD HAVE KNOWN OF SUCH A STRATEGY ON THE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL.


BUT--AS WE'VE NOTED--THERE'S NO LOVE LOST BETWEEN YOUR AGENCY AND MYSELF.
ATTEMPTS SPAWNED AT THIS LEVEL--WITHOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL KNOWLEDGE--TO THESE I WOULD NOT BE PRIVY.

OUR DIRECTOR WOULD NEVER...
OF COURSE HE MIGHT. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, HE DIDN'T. A ROGUE AGENT DID.
YOU.
I?
YOU ENGINEERED THE UNAUTHORIZED BOTCHED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS ON A NEIGHBORING HEAD OF STATE THAT RESULTED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF OUR PRESIDENT, MR. MARTIN.
THIS COUNTRY CANNOT PERMIT THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF A FORCE SO INIMICAL TO OUR OWN INTERESTS SO CLOSE TO ITS VERY SHORES.
THE ATTEMPTS WERE JUSTIFIED. THE FAILURES WERE NOT MY FAULT.
WILLIAM H. MARTIN
YOU DON'T DENY IT.
WHY SHOULD I? HAD MY PLAN SUCCEEDED, I WOULD HAVE BEEN THE HERO OF A GENERATION.
I WILL HAVE TO GO TO THE COMMISSION WITH YOUR INFORMATION. SOME OF IT, THAT IS.
AS FOR YOURSELF -- WELL, AS YOU SAID, THERE IS NO LOVE LOST...
6

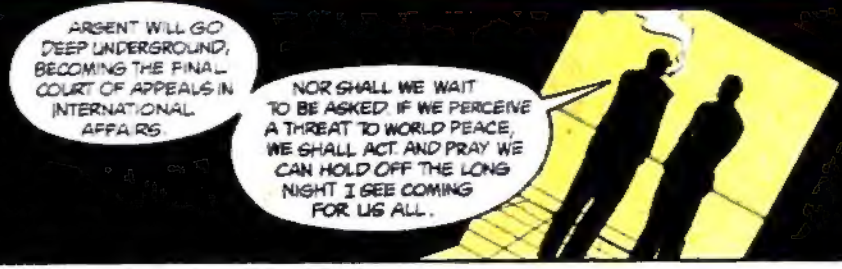
LGHK! URGK! GLGGGK!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, CONTROL? TECHNICALLY, WE'RE OBLIGATED TO REPORT WHAT WE KNOW TO THE COMMISSION.

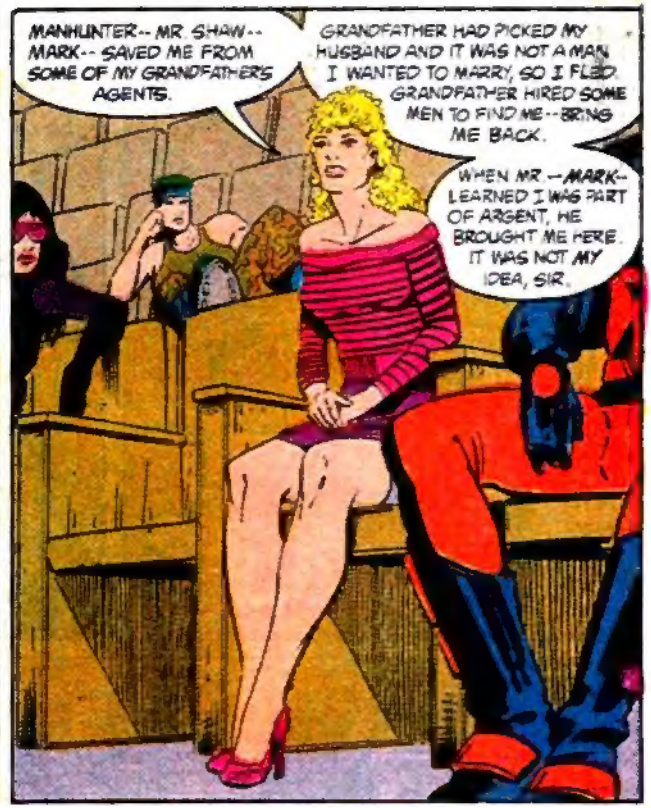
I KNEW THAT ONE DAY, SOONER OR LATER, WE WOULD HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN NATIONAL INTERESTS AND GLOBAL ONES. I HAVE PLANNED ACCORDINGLY AND SET THE WHEELS IN MOTION.

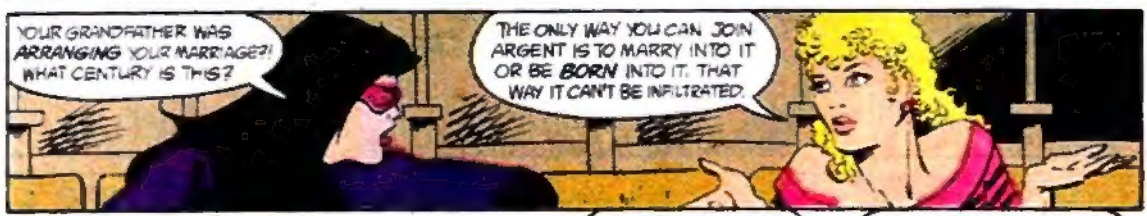
"ALL OUR TRACES WILL BE SYSTEMATICALLY REMOVED FROM ALL THE FEDERAL FILES BY PEOPLE LOYAL TO US.

"THE SCALES WILL BE BALANCED. AMERICA HAS LOST ITS LEADER, ITS CHIEF RIVAL AND ARCHITECT FOR HIS DEATH WILL HAVE THEIR SPACE PROGRAM SYSTEMATICALLY SABOTAGED SO AMERICA WINS THE RACE FOR THE MOON."
BA-BOOM


ARGENT WILL GO DEEP UNDERGROUND, BECOMING THE FINAL COURT OF APPEALS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.
NOR SHALL WE WAIT TO BE ASKED. IF WE PERCEIVE A THREAT TO WORLD PEACE, WE SHALL ACT. AND PRAY WE CAN HOLD OFF THE LONG NIGHT I SEE COMING FOR US ALL.

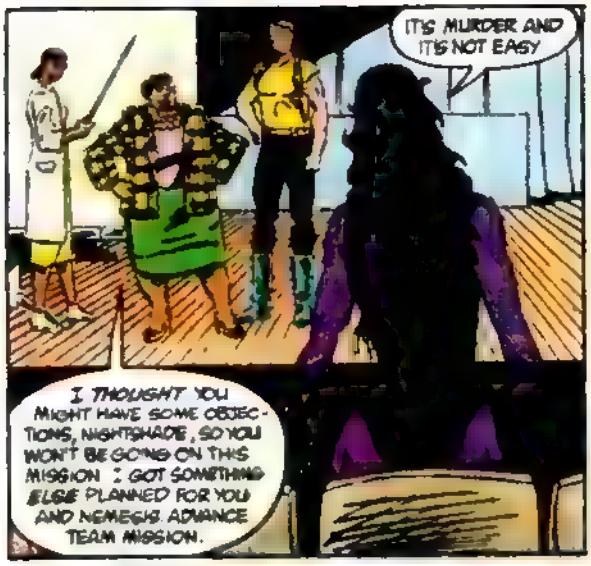
AND NO ONE HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THEM SINCE THEN?
EVEN WITH THE PRIMITIVE DEVICES IN THE EARTH-ZONE, I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT...
WHISPERS, RUMORS, USUALLY ONLY AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT.
THE GOVERNMENTS DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO EXPLAIN ABOUT ARGENT, AND ARGENT DIDN'T FEEL LIKE ADVERTISING A SORT OF UNSPOKEN AGREEMENT.
WHO BLOODY CARES?
IT'S ALL ANCIENT HISTORY, INNIT?
AND HERE I THOUGHT ANCIENT HISTORY WAS YOUR BEST SUBJECT IN REFORM SCHOOL.
LOTSA YUKS, THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE, Y'FLAMIN' CHROMO.
IT'S CURRENT EVENTS, DOWN UNDER, IF WHAT OUR SOURCE FOR THIS INFORMATION SAYS IS TRUE.
YOU SEE, ARGENT HAS DECIDED THAT THE LATEST THREAT TO WORLD PEACE -- IS US.
8



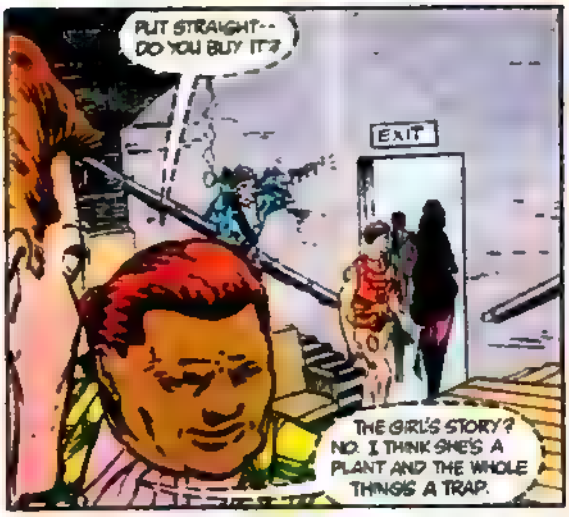


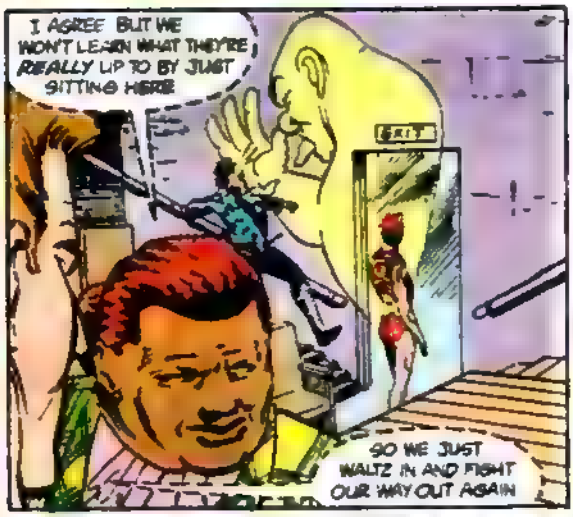
*SQUAD #5-7, 13 AND SUICIDE SQUAD/DOOM PATROL SPECIAL #1--BOB

IT SEEMS TO ME THE SIMPLEST WAY TO DESTROY THIS GROUP WOULD BE TO EXPOSE IT.
I GUESS GRANDFATHER IS NOT SO CERTAIN OF THAT
THE THING TO DO IS BRING THE BATTLE TO ARGENT.
HIT THEM BEFORE THEY CAN HIT US!
TOUGH TO DO IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE. THANKS TO MS. VERÉ, WE DO.
FLO DUG UP SOME DIRT ON THE PLACE. FLO?
THIS IS PETERSON STATE COLLEGE, A LITTLE BIT NORTH OF SAN FRANCISCO. IT WAS BUILT AROUND THE TURN OF THE CENTURY AND FELL INTO DISUSE IN THE FORTIES.
ABOUT 1962, IT WAS BOUGHT BY A LITTLE-KNOWN RELIGIOUS CULT CALLED THE CHURCH OF GET AND MADE INTO A PRIVATE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
IT HAS ABSOLUTELY NO GOVERNMENTAL SUBSIDIES, EITHER FEDERAL OR LOCAL, NOR ANY CORPORATE GRANTS.
COMPUTER GIVES VIRTUALLY NOTHING ON THE CULT ITSELF. IT APPEARS TO BE ENTIRELY SELF-SUPPORTING. THE SETTING ARE VERY LOW PROFILE -- HOW THEY GET THEIR CONVERTS, WE DON'T KNOW
MS. VERÉ SAYS CONTROL IS BASED HERE. WE'RE GOING TO CHECK THAT OUT AND -- IF HE IS -- GET HIM BEFORE HE GETS US
IT'S THAT SIMPLE.


IT'S MURDER AND IT'S NOT EASY
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME OBJECTIONS, NIGHTSHADE, SO YOU WON'T BE GOING ON THIS MISSION. I GOT SOMETHING ELSE PLANNED FOR YOU AND NEMESIS ADVANCE TEAM MISSION.

THE REST OF YOU-- GET READY TO MOVE OUT COLONEL, A WORD.
I'M NEVER GOING TO GET BACK TO META AT THIS RATE


PUT STRAIGHT-- DO YOU BUY IT?
EXIT
THE GIRL'S STORY? NO. I THINK SHE'S A PLANT AND THE WHOLE THINGS A TRAP.

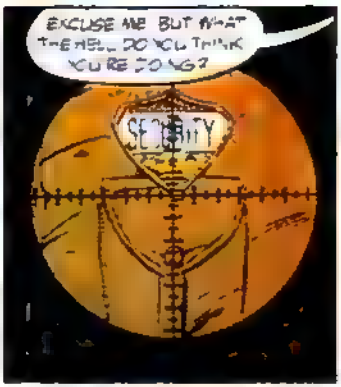

I AGREE BUT WE WON'T LEARN WHAT THEY'RE REALLY UP TO BY JUST SITTING HERE
EXIT
SO WE JUST WALTZ IN AND FIGHT OUR WAY OUT AGAIN

WITH SOME FINESSE, YES
INFILTRATE BY DAYLIGHT STRIKE AFTER DARK YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

SHOULD I?

THERE WAS A TIME NOT LONG AGO, WHEN YOU WOULD HAVE
LORD KNOWS I WANTED YOU HARDER, FLAG BUT I THINK SOMETHING IN YOU HAS DIED ALONG THE WAY

AND IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL, A FEW PEOPLE WILL DIE ALONG THE WAY WITH YOU!


EXCUSE ME BUT WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
SECURITY

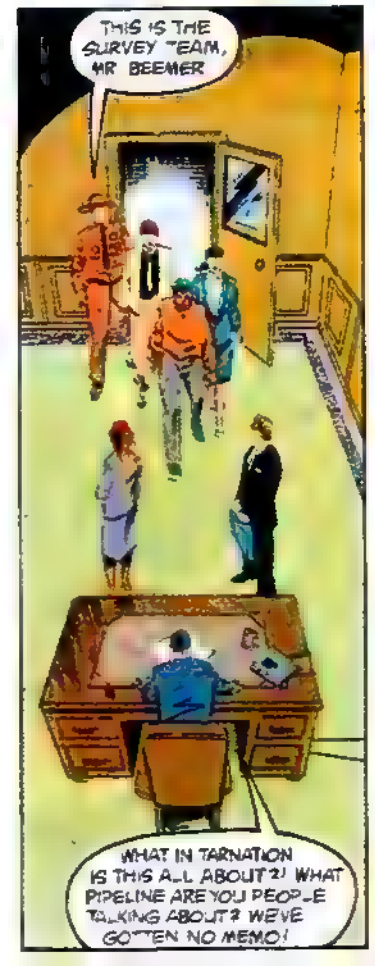
U.S. SURVEY TEAM CHARTING POSSIBLE PIPELINE ROUTE
NOT THROUGH HERE THIS PRIVATE PROPERTY
NOT IF UNCLE SAMMY WANTS IT, PAL

LOOK IT YOUR CHANCELLOR OR PRESIDENT OR WHOEVER RUNS THIS PLACE MUST'VE GOTTEN THE MEMO ON ALL THIS. WHY DON'CHA CALL HIM?
INTEND TO DO?
UNIT TWO TO HOME BASE

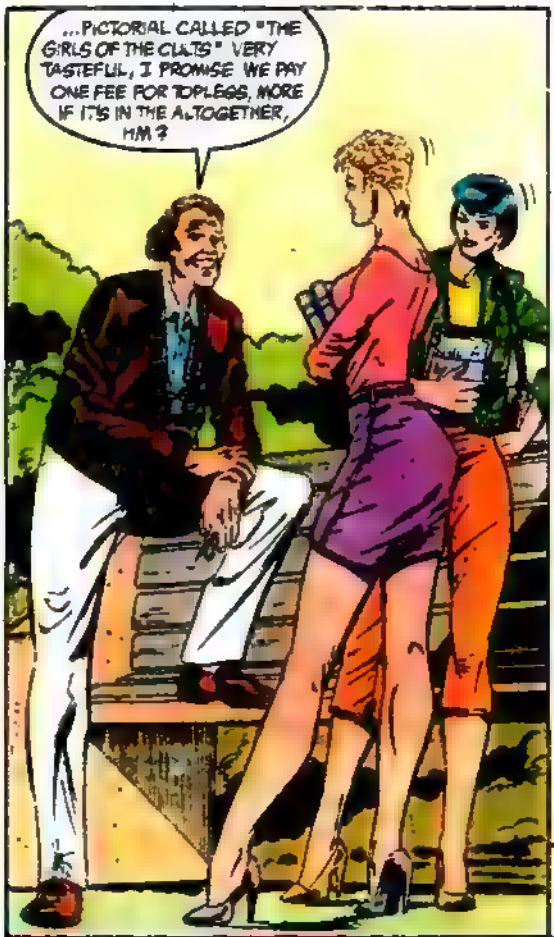
MR HALL WELL, IT IS THE COLLEGES CONTENTION THAT SINCE WE DO NOT ACCEPT GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES, WE DO NOT FALL UNDER GOVERNMENTAL GUIDELINES.

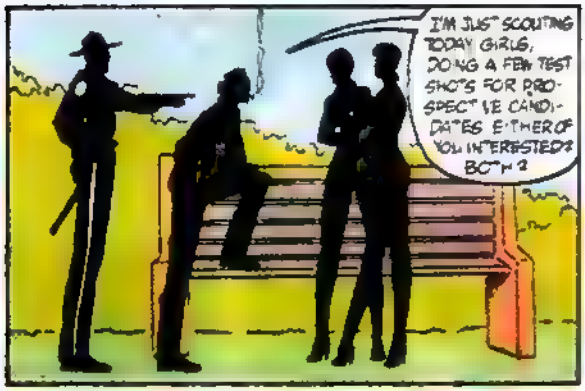
THAT IS WHERE YOUR COLLEGE IS WRONG, MR BEEMER! THE RACIAL QUOTAS ARE FOR ALL SCHOOLS!
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO SIT STILL ON RACIAL INEQUALITY! YOU MUST OPEN YOUR DOOR TO MORE MINORITIES!
BZZ

EXCUSE ME YES, WHAT IS IT, MRS FELDSPAR?
THE SECURITY TEAM WITH THE FEDERAL SURVEYORS ARE HERE, SIR SHALL I SEND THEM IN?
I SUPPOSE.


THIS IS THE SURVEY TEAM, MR BEEMER
WHAT IN TARNATION IS THIS ALL ABOUT?! WHAT PIPELINE ARE YOU PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT? WE'VE GOTTEN NO MEMO!

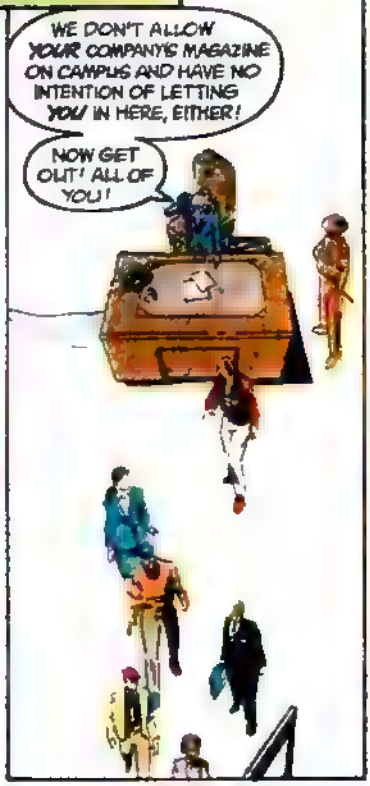
LOOK, ALL I KNOW IS WHAT THEY TELL ME. YOU KNOW YOU'RE MESSING WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HERE?
SEE HERE, BEEMER--I DON'T INTEND TO BE IGNORED IN THIS FASHION!
WHERE'S CAPTAIN BOOMERANG?
HE TOLD US HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE WITH YOU
HE TOLD US HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE WITH YOU!
WHERE'S BOOMERANG?
?


...PICTORIAL CALLED "THE GIRLS OF THE CLATS" VERY TASTEFUL, I PROMISE WE PAY ONE FEE FOR TOPLESS, MORE IF IT'S IN THE ALTOGETHER, HM?


I'M JUST SCOUTING TODAY GIRLS, DOING A FEW TEST SHOTS FOR PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES. EITHER OF YOU INTERESTED? BOTH?

BLOODY ABRIDGMENT OF ME CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOMS, THAT'S WHAT IT IS!
GOT A JOB TO DO!
THE SCHOOL RULES..!

I HAVE HAD QUITE ENOUGH!
THIS SCHOOL IS A PRIVATE INSTITUTION! WE DON'T INTEND TO BE BULLIED! IF THE GOVERNMENT WISHES TO INFRINGE ON US THEY HAD BETTER HAVE A COURT ORDER!


WE DON'T ALLOW YOUR COMPANY'S MAGAZINE ON CAMPUS AND HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING YOU IN HERE, EITHER!
NOW GET OUT! ALL OF YOU!

ODD, THIS MANY STRANGERS TURNING UP AT ONE TIME
YES WE'LL TAKE IT UP WITH THE MASTER WHEN HE ARRIVES TONIGHT

WELL, BEEMER WAS AN EXCITABLE BOY HOW'S THE BUG TRANSMITTING?
CLEAR OTHER REPORTS

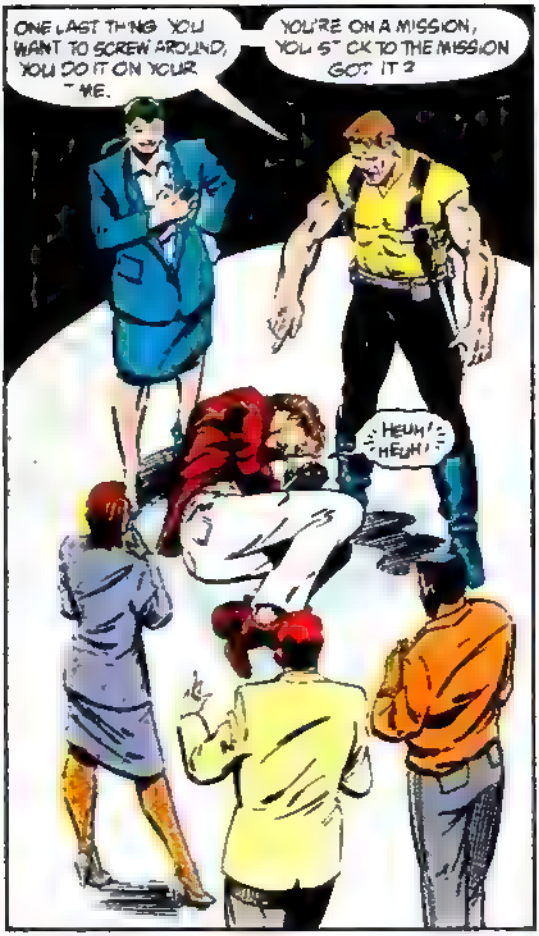
THERE'S SOME SORT OF ENORMOUS POWER SOURCE BELOW GROUND LEVEL ON CAMPUS THE GRASS OVER THE QUADRANGLE IS ARTIFICIAL AND THERE'S A LARGE CAVERN BELOW IT

THERE ARE LIGHTS HIDDEN ALONG THE BORDERS OF THE CROSSWALKS LIKE THEY USE ON RUNWAYS.

LANDING FIELD OF SOME SORT? HELICOPTER OR VTOL. MAYBE
NICE TOY LIKE TO SELL IT?
ITS METAN TECHNOLOGY A LITTLE BEYOND YOU, I THINK

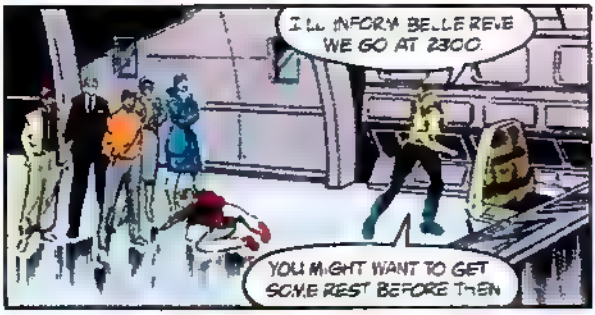
WE'RE GOING AHEAD?
TONIGHT SOMETHING'S GOING ON IN THERE. BUT FIRST...

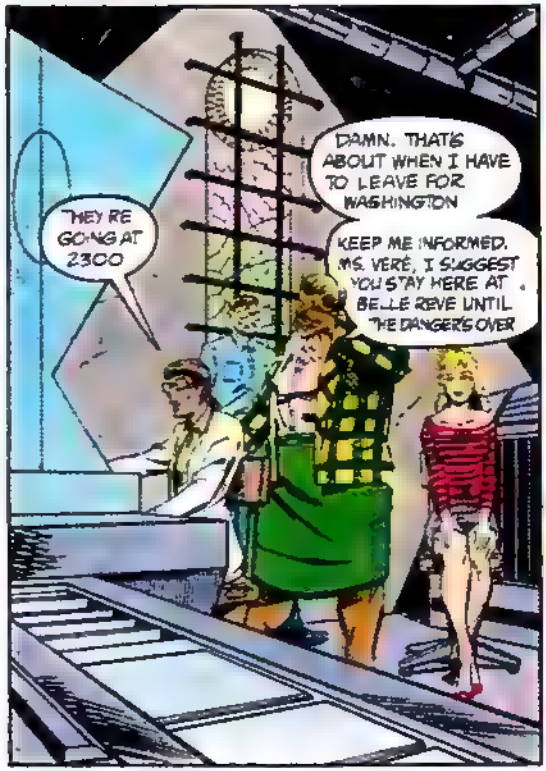
MMMMMPH!
WHOK!


ONE LAST THING YOU WANT TO SCREW AROUND, YOU DO IT ON YOUR TIME.
YOU'RE ON A MISSION, YOU STICK TO THE MISSION GOT IT?
HEUH! HEUH!

OH, YEAH ? HEUH? WON'T... FORGET... IN A HURRY, COLONEL SIR

SEE THAT YOU DON'T.


I'LL INFORM BELLE REVE WE GO AT 2300.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO GET SOME REST BEFORE THEN


THEY'RE GOING AT 2300
DAMN. THAT'S ABOUT WHEN I HAVE TO LEAVE FOR WASHINGTON
KEEP ME INFORMED. MS. VERE, I SUGGEST YOU STAY HERE AT BELLE REVE UNTIL THE DANGER'S OVER

THANK YOU, MRS. WALLER
I... FEEL SAFER HERE.

2255

SHADE WILL HELP YOU FIND POINTS OF ENTRY. HE, VIXEN AND THE BRONZE TIGER WILL ACT AS SCOUTS.

BOOMERANG, DUCHESS AND MANHUNTER WILL FOLLOW AND -- AT 2310 HOURS -- BEGIN THE ARMED DIVERSION. BASICALLY, DESTROY EVERYTHING IN SIGHT.

VIXEN, YOU'LL TRY TO CATCH A SCENT OF THE CONTROL AND FLUSH HIM OUT. TIGER WILL GO WITH YOU. ELIMINATE HIM. CRIPPLE THE BASE.

WHERE *YOU* GONNER BE DURING ALL THIS?

I'M YOUR ACE IN THE HOLE. ANY QUESTIONS?

ACE *UP* THE HOLE IS WHAT *YOU* ARE!

WHAT'S *THIS*?

MY POWER BATON. MODULAR PIECES. THIS END'S THE ORIGINAL PIECE GIVEN TO ME BY THE CULT. I ADD PIECES HERE AND IT DOES DIFFERENT THINGS.

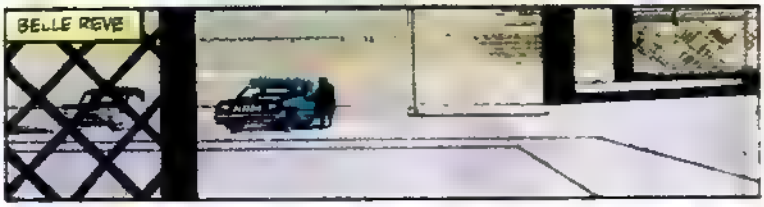
FASCINATING! I'D LIKE TO EXAMINE IT LATER.

SORRY. MOSTLY ALIEN TECHNOLOGY. I DON'T THINK YOU'D UNDERSTAND IT.

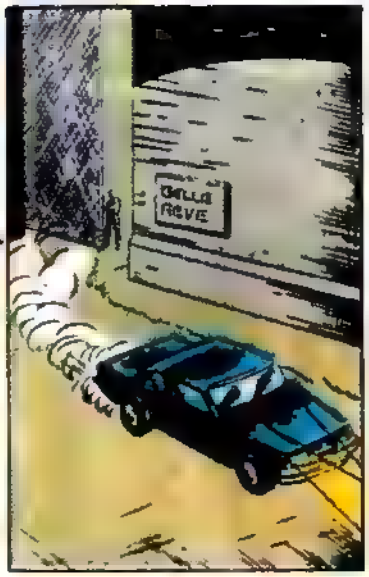
HERE

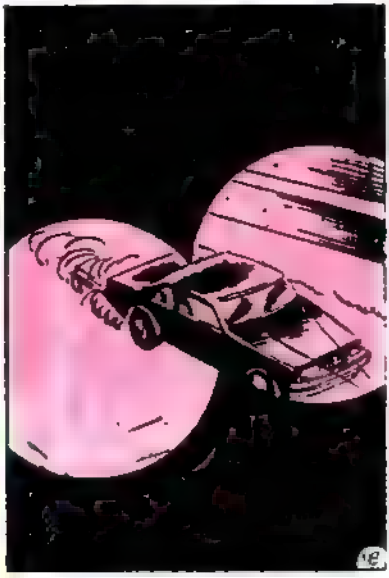
CLEAR

SSHH?
THIS WAY


BELLE REVE

'NIGHT, MRS WALLER


BELLE REVE



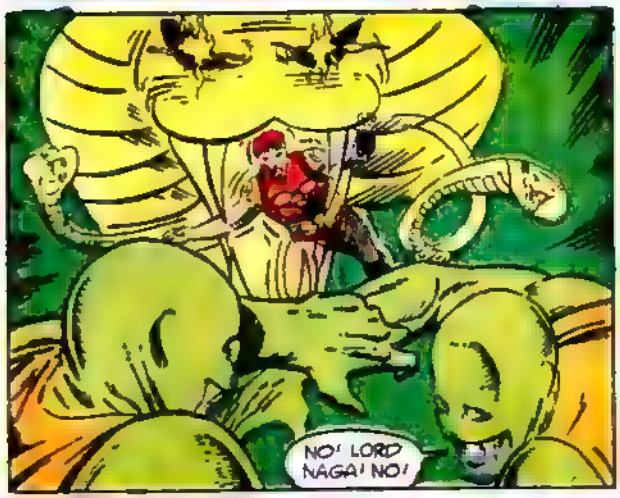
SHE'S LEFT. INFORM TEAM TWO.
TAO!

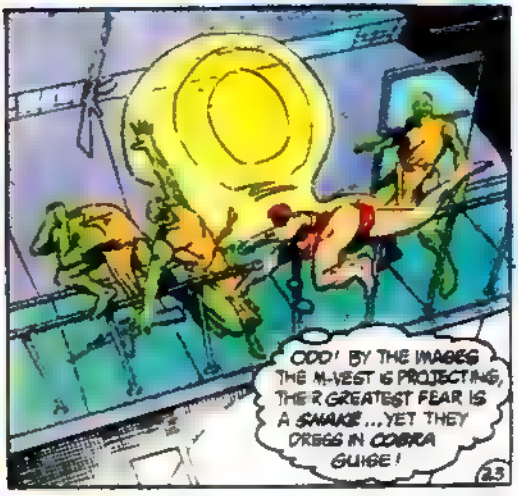
KRAK!
I DON'T LIKE IT WHERE'S ALL THE HIRED HELP?
YOU'LL FIND EM VIXEN AND I ARE HEADING OUT GIVE US FIVE

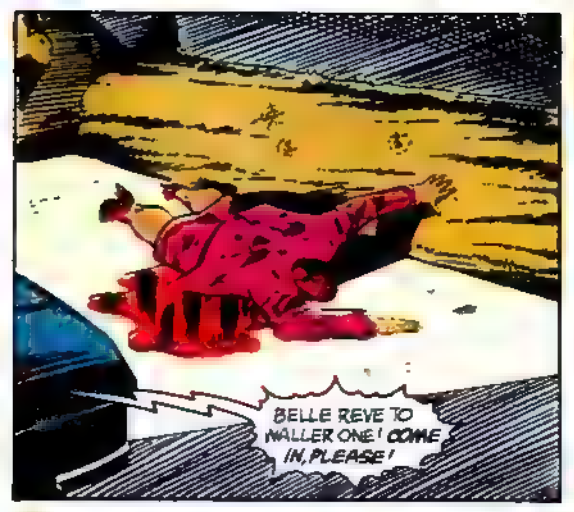
BEN! I RECOGNIZE THESE COSTUMES! FROM WHEN I WAS WITH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!
KOBRA!
WE'VE BEEN SET UP

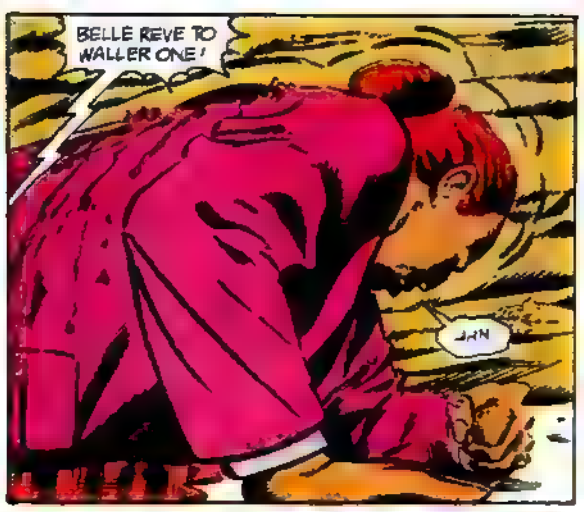
BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABRT
IT'S DONE. LET'S GO HOME
TIME LET'S HIT IT
SCHRAK!
FWIP FWIP
BDOOM BDOOM!

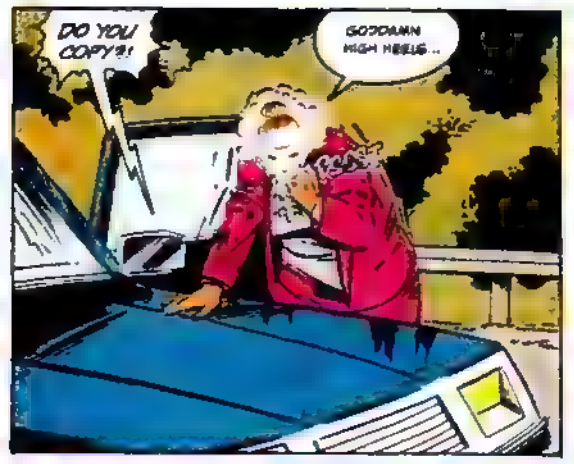
BRRRT!
BOOM!
BA-BOOM!
BRRRT!

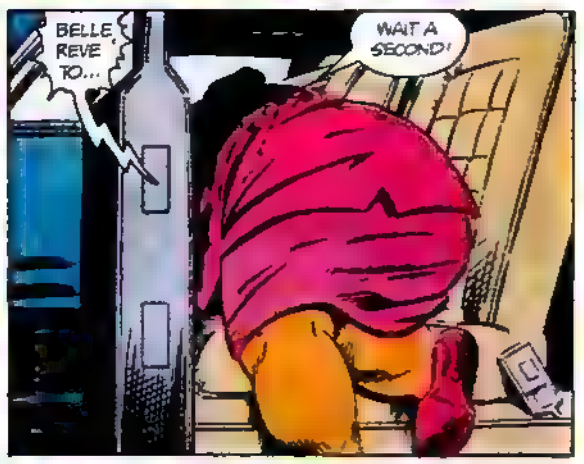





BELLE REVE TO WALLER ONE! COME IN, PLEASE!


BELLE REVE TO WALLER ONE!
JAN


DO YOU COPY?!
GODDAMN HIGH HEELS...


BELLE REVE TO...
WAIT A SECOND!

NEMESIS HERE
TRESSER! YOU OKAY?

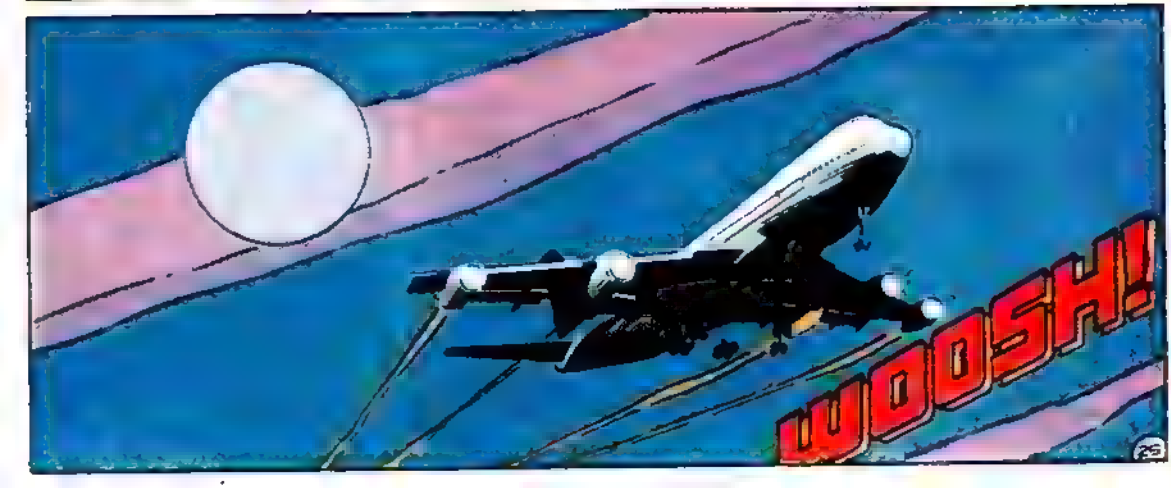
BRUISED BUT BREATHING
THEY STRUCK PRETTY MUCH LIKE YOU THOUGHT THEY WOULD. FORTUNATELY, I HAD ENOUGH KELVAR PADDING TO STOP A TANK. NO OFFENSE MEANT.

NONE TAKEN. COME HOME AND GET WHITE AGAIN.
AND WE'LL HOPE NIGHTSHADE CAN DO HER PART!

LET'S GET ARBORNE. WE HAVE TO MAKE OUR CONNECTION IN NEW YORK YET.

SUG
COF

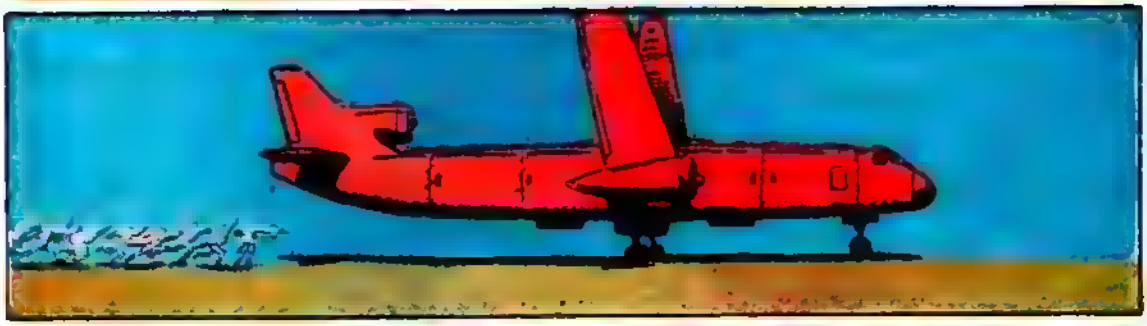
WE'RE CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF? GOOD. LET'S GO HOME


WOOSH!!

TIGER! WE GOT THE CALL FROM BELLE REVE! ABORT THE ATTACK! PULL OUT!
EASIER SAID THAN DONE, COLONEL! WE'RE OUTNUMBERED AND CUT OFF!
AH, ALL WE NEED IS A DIVERSION
BUK-CHOOM! BUK-CHOOM! BUK-CHOOM!
YA BLOODY CHROMO! YER TAKIN' OUR STINKIN' NAME TOO FLIPPIN' SERIOUSLY!
ERRNNNK!
SHWOOOOEEE!
THAT SOUND! SOUNDS LIKE...
HE'S NOT TRYING TO PUT THAT DOWN IN THE ATHLETIC FIELD, IS HE?

BA-BOOM

WE GOT EVERYBODY?
WHY? WERE YOU THINKING YOU COULD ACTUALLY TAKE OFF AGAIN?
GG-1 HAS A NEW TRICK WATCH



FWOOSH!

WE GOT SUCKERED
NOT QUITE MRS WALLER FIGURED THIS WAS A FEINT THE OLD "LET'S YOU AND HIM FIGHT" ROUTINE
SHE FIGURED THAT IF ARGENT REALLY WANTED TO DESTROY THE SQUAD, THEY'D GO AFTER OUR ONE IRREPLACEABLE MEMBER HER

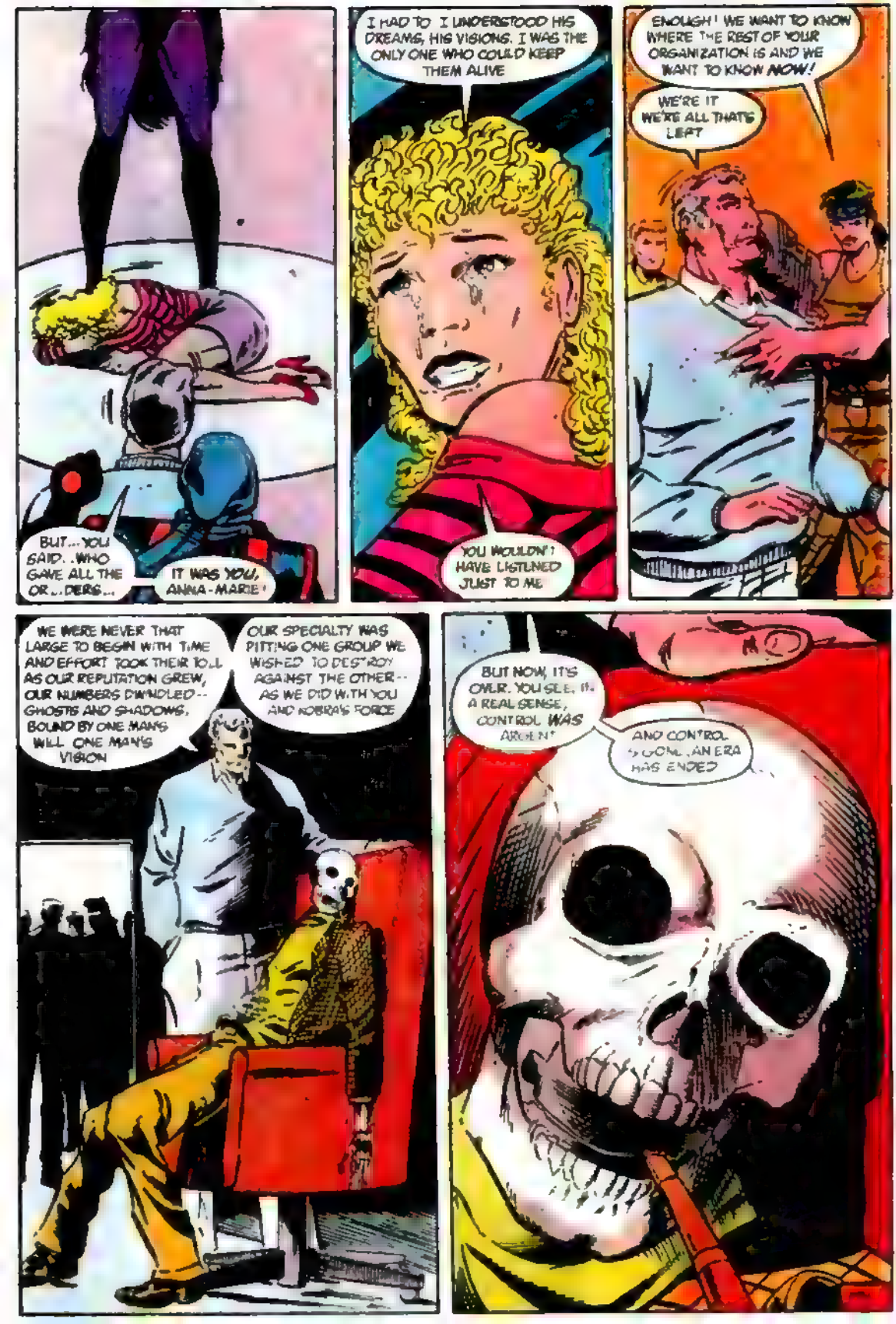
SHE OKAY?
YEAH. THOUGH ARGENT THINKS SHE'S DEAD. MS VERÉ IS ON HER WAY HOME AND NIGHTSHADE IS WITH HER .. "SHADOWING."
WE'LL KICK IN THE AFTERBURNERS AND REFUEL IN MIDAIR WE SHOULDN'T BE FAR BEHIND THEM

AND THEN WE MAKE A RECKONING.

LONDON

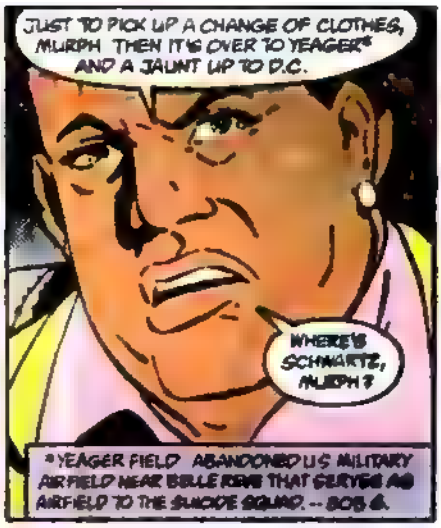
STAY RIGHT HERE I'LL LET GRANDFATHER KNOW WE'RE BACK AND THAT THE MISSION WAS A SUCCESS

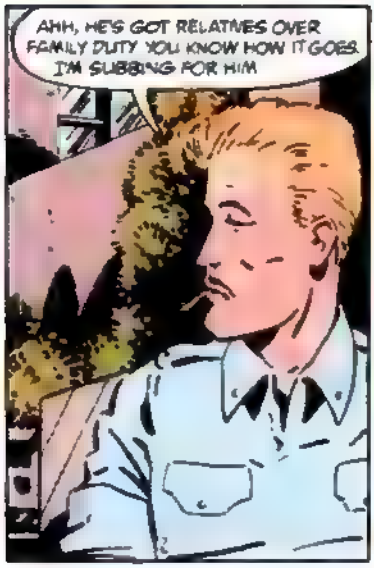
KA-B-R-SH!
GRANDFATHER! MUST SAVE GRANDFATHER!
HE'S DEAD. CONTROL IS DEAD, ANNA-MARIE.
YOU KILLED HIM?
HE'S BEEN DEAD FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS.


BUT... YOU SAID.. WHO GAVE ALL THE OR...DERS...
IT WAS YOU, ANNA-MARIE!
I HAD TO I UNDERSTOOD HIS DREAMS, HIS VISIONS. I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD KEEP THEM ALIVE
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE LISTENED JUST TO ME
ENOUGH! WE WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE REST OF YOUR ORGANIZATION IS AND WE WANT TO KNOW NOW!
WE'RE IT WE'RE ALL THAT'S LEFT
WE WERE NEVER THAT LARGE TO BEGIN WITH TIME AND EFFORT TOOK THEIR TOLL AS OUR REPUTATION GREW, OUR NUMBERS DWINDLED-- GHOSTS AND SHADOWS, BOUND BY ONE MAN'S WILL ONE MAN'S VISION
OUR SPECIALTY WAS PITTING ONE GROUP WE WISHED TO DESTROY AGAINST THE OTHER-- AS WE DID WITH YOU AND KOBRA'S FORCE
BUT NOW, IT'S OVER. YOU SEE, IN A REAL SENSE, CONTROL WAS ARGENT
AND CONTROL SOON... AN ERA HAS ENDED

FAMILY DUTY

WRITER: JOHN OSTRANDER
ARTISTS: KEITH GIFFEN & BOB CHISHOLM
LETTERER: TODD KLEIN
COLORIST: CARL GAFFORD
EDITOR: ROBERT GREENBERGER





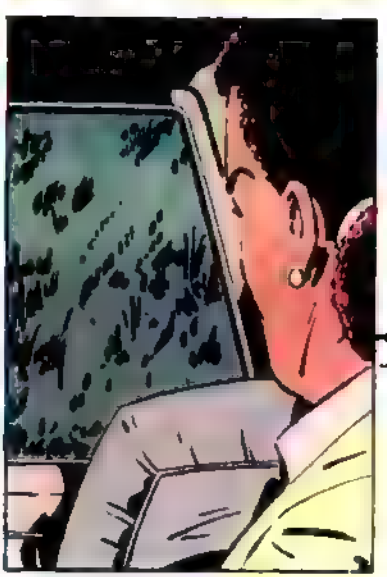
OF COURSE, THERE MAY NOT BE A SUICIDE SQUAD AFTER I'M DONE IN WASHINGTON

OR IF THERE IS-- I MAY NOT BE LEADING 'EM.

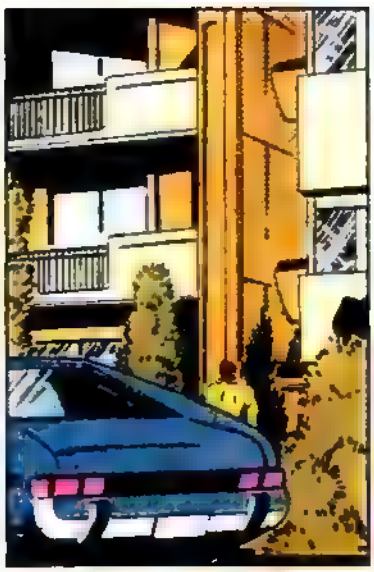
LET'S NOT BE SO DRAMATIC, AMANDA YOU JUST HELP DISCREDIT SENATOR CRAY'S OPPONENT AND I'M OUT OF YOUR HAIR FOREVER

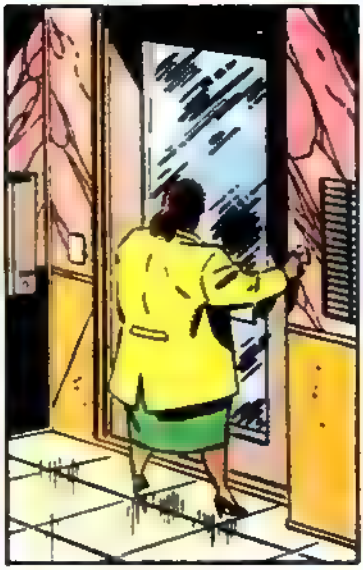
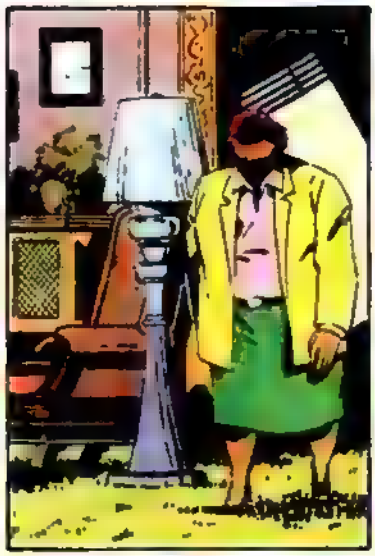
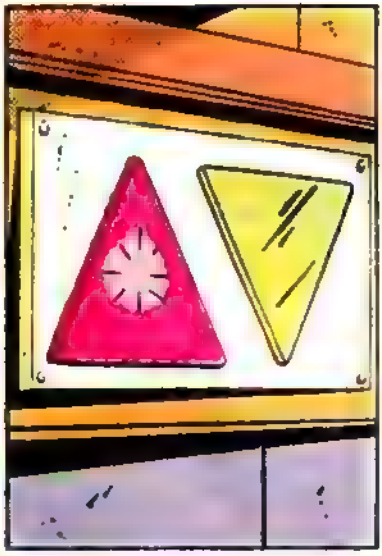
DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M THAT POLITICALLY STUPID? WE DO ONE THING FOR YOU AND YOU HAVE US BY THE SHORT 'N' CURLIES FOREVER

I GOT TO DEAL WITH YOU FOR REAL SOON ENOUGH TOMORROW, SO YOU GET OUT OF MY CAR AND MY MIND RIGHT NOW



I'M LOSING IT



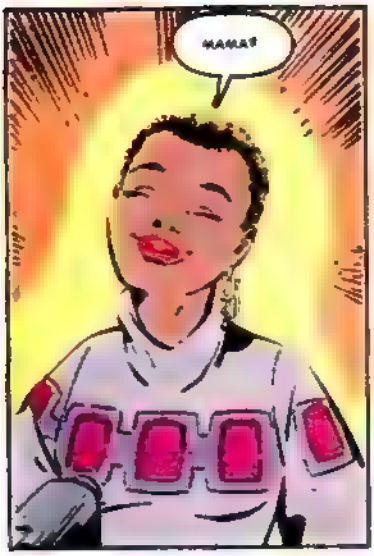




WHERE ARE THE MATCHES I WEDGED IN THE DOORWAY?

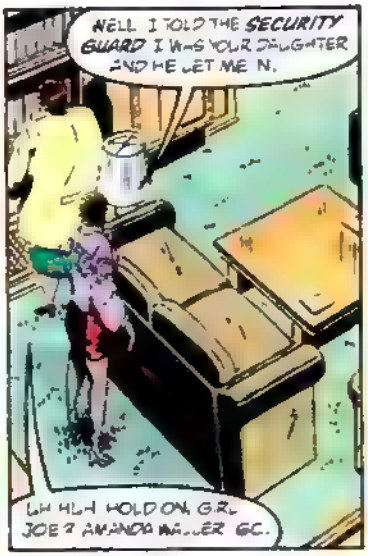
SOMEONE'S IN THERE!

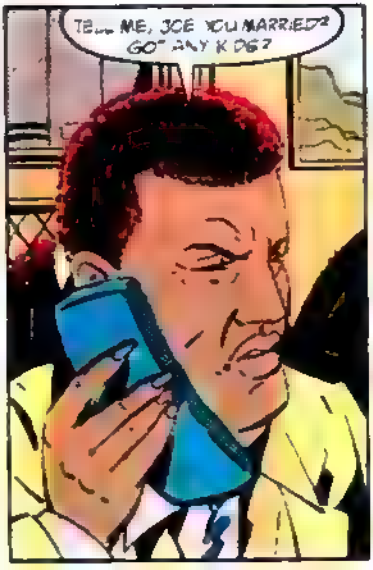
WHAM!

SURPRISE!


MAMA?

SEREETHA
HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?


WELL I TOLD THE SECURITY GUARD I WAS YOUR DAUGHTER AND HE LET ME IN.
UH UH HOLD ON, GIRL JOE? AMANDA WALLER GC.

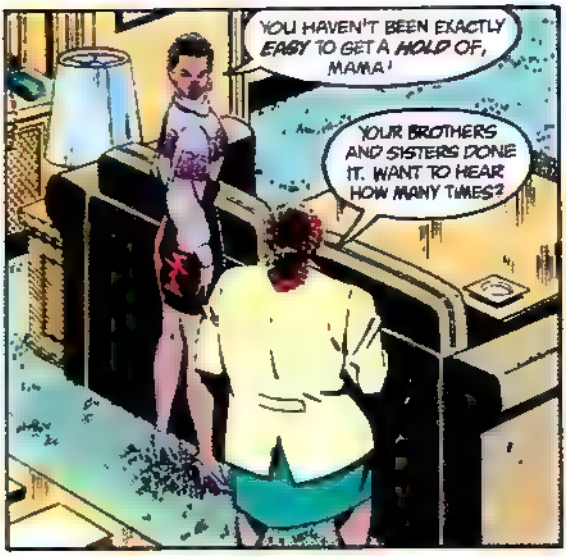

TELL ME, JOE YOU MARRIED? GOT ANY KIDS?

WELL, I SURE HOPE YOU CAN SUPPORT THEM ALL ON UNEMPLOYMENT, 'CAUSE THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE GOIN'! HOW DARE YOU LET SOMEONE INTO MY APARTMENT!

SHE IS MY DAUGHTER! I DON'T CARE! YOU COULDN'T KNOW THAT FOR SURE!
MAMA · PLEASE!

TALK THAT WAY TO ME! I'LL HAVE HIS RAGGEDY BUTT FIRED!
MAMA, C'MON! HE RECOGNIZED ME FROM YOUR PICTURES OF ME! HE WAS JUST TRYING TO BE NICE.

C'MON, MAMA! DON'T BE ANGRY! 'TIS BEEN SO LONG SINCE I SEEN YOU!
ONE YEAR, TWO MONTHS WITHOUT A VISIT, A CARD, A LETTER OR A PHONE CALL.


YOU HAVEN'T BEEN EXACTLY EASY TO GET A HOLD OF, MAMA!
YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS DONE IT. WANT TO HEAR HOW MANY TIMES?

GOD! I HAVE NEVER MET ANYONE WHO KEEPS SCORE LIKE YOU! EXCEPT MAYBE R.J.!

THAT'S RIGHT. LAST TIME I SAW YOU, YOU HAD A HUSBAND.
WHERE IS THE DEAR BOY?

THAT MAN IS SUCH A JERK!
GIRL, I KNEW THAT BEFORE THE WEDDING.

I MEAN IT, MAMA! I AM TIRED OF HIS CRAP! EVERY TIME I CALL HIM ON IT, HE SAYS HE GOT A RIGHT TO DO IT-- THAT IT'S IN THE BOOK!
WHAT BOOK?
THE BOOK! THE BOOK ON MEN AND WOMEN THAT HE SAYS ONLY MEN ARE ALLOWED TO SEE!
OH. THAT BOOK
SEREETHA YOU COME HOME NOW
GIRL, YOU MARRIED A LINEBACKER. HE'S A PROFESSIONAL NEANDER-THAL. STANDS TO REASON HE'S GOING TO HAVE NEANDERTHAL ATTITUDES.
WHERE MY WIFE?
JOE?! WHAT THE HELL YOU DOIN' SENDIN' THAT MAN UP TO MY APARTMENT UNANNOUNCED?
YES, HE IS MY SON-IN-LAW! DON'T MEAN I WANT TO SEE HIM!
YES, I AM GOING TO GET YOUR BUTT FIRED! SO WHAT ELSE CAN I DO TO YOU?!? YOU GONNA FIND OUT, MISTER!
I AIN'T GOING NOWHERE WITH YOU, R J! I'M MOVED OUT! I'M GONNA LIVE HERE WITH MY MAMA!
6

HOLD THE PHONE! YOU GOING TO DO WHAT?!?

NOW, MAMA! I GOT TO GO SOMEWHERE! I CAN'T LIVE WITH THIS MAN NO MORE. HE DON'T TREAT ME RIGHT!
NOT LIVING HERE!

SEREETHA, I RAISED YOU. MADE SURE YOU HAD A COLLEGE EDUCATION AND A CHANCE TO MAKE YOUR OWN LIFE.
NOW I'M MAKING MY OWN LIFE. AND I AIN'T GOT TIME IN IT FOR THIS KIND OF NONSENSE.

BUT MAMA! I NEED YOU!
BULL! YOU'RE HAVING A SPAT WITH THIS OVERGROWN PIECE OF BEEF JERKY AND I AIN'T GONNA GET DRAWN IN!

YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT ME THAT WAY! I'M A PROFESSIONAL ATHELETE!
YOU'LL BE CHUMP CHANGE IF YOU MESS WITH ME!

FURTHERMORE, IF YOU DON'T STRAIGHTEN UP AND TREAT MY LITTLE GIRL RIGHT, I WILL QUIT MY JOB, MOVE IN WITH YOU AND DEVOTE THE REST OF MY LIFE TO MAKING YOUR LIFE MISERABLE!
AND YOU KNOW I CAN DO IT!

NOW THE PAIR OF YOU GET OUT OF HERE! I GOT ME A PLANE TO CATCH!
YES, MAMA.
YES, MAMA.
MAMA, YOU WON'T REALLY GET THAT SECURITY GUARD FIRED, WILL YOU?
NAW, PROBABLY NOT.
MURPH'D JUST RE-HIRE HIM OVER AT BELLE REVE, ANYWAY.
I'M SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS, MAMA. I REALLY DO LOVE YOU, YOU KNOW.
I KNOW. I LOVE YOU, TOO, HONEY.
BYE-BYE, MAMA! TALK TO YOU SOON!
YEAH. 'BYE.
TOLLIVER, YOU'RE DEAD MEAT. IF I CAN DEAL WITH FAMILY, I CAN DEAL WITH ANYTHING YOU DISH OUT!
FIN.

SUICIDE NOTES

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L-3354

I know it's jarring to see text pages in an Annual but since they gave them out, I'm using them in my various titles (STAR TREK, DOOM PATROL and SUICIDE SQUAD, collect them all!) to look at mail that is more general in commentary and doesn't usually fit into a given month.

Dear Bob,

Perhaps the best part of the SUICIDE SQUAD is the rotating cast ... otherwise we may get quickly bored. I expected to see a lot more critical acclaim ... the surprise is that it has not been canceled. The book is too good to do well ... some of my other favorites have bit the dust over the years: ALL-STAR SQUADRON, OMEGA MEN, VIGILANTE, and INFINITY, INC.

The bureaucratic pressure being applied to Amanda Waller by Derek Tolliver and Joe Cray is certainly palpable and intriguing, and keeping her tied up with Checkmate also prevents overexposure (I'm sooo tired of hearing "Boomerbutt"). But I'm very happy how some of the other characterizations are starting to flesh out, given the transient nature of the book.

The Bronze Tiger, never a favorite, is finally showing some depth ... I like his increasing interest in Eastern philosophy. Vixen fits in here better than with the ill-fated JLA. With the majority of her last two collections of colleagues being murdered, will she be desensitized to having dispensable and disposable teammates? This is, after all, the woman Batman was able to confide in during the old JLA's last days. The best addition to the lineup yet, along with Black Orchid.

Deadshot is perfect ... the Suicide Squad personified ... keep him as is, but please keep him. Captain Boomerang, while novel at first, is becoming tired old schtick ... rotating him out now and then would keep him fresh. Captain Cold's contempt for the ersatz Mirror Master illustrates that there are some things held sacred among outlaws. The Enchantress persona was the only interesting facet of the otherwise simpering and insipid June Moone, so maybe she'll be written out!

The supporting cast has been handled well, but in particular Plastique, Black Orchid, Nemesis and the Penguin. I would like Nightshade developed some more ... her exchanges with Speedy were especially poignant, but everything else has, unfortunately, been simply mystery-recapping.

I have difficulty with Rick Flag. With the demise of Karin Grace (in the most believable Manhunter subplot), he's the only remaining link to the original Suicide Squad. Is that link unnecessary? Well, we've had a veritable legion of Squad members thus far, plus the Justice League, Doom Patrol, and countless denizens from LEGENDS, but Flag remains gray and two-dimensional. He doesn't play well off *anybody*, and his impressive array of emotions (pick one: remorseful, sorrowful, self-pity, or searing macho rage) could qualify him for the Teen Titans. Issue #16's letter column said that "everyone is expendable" ... how about a team returning without its leader? Please.

Rac Shade's oft-requested addition is so off-beat that it'll probably work, but only if you use the Meta Zone and especially the Zero Zone. What a place to discipline Harkness for an issue or two. The Wall would love it.

Now, what letter to Suicide Notes would be complete without the inevitable appearance requests? It seems to be a foregone conclusion that Lashina/Duchess and Captain Cold have been added to be deleted. Suicide Squad has become a repository for old Flash villains, as well as those from Firestorm, Supergirl and, to a lesser degree, Batman. Others I would like to see make their way-station-to-oblivion appearances are the utterly pointless Funky Flashman, Signalman, Catalyst, Spellbinder, Tobias Whale, and the Night-Slayer.

Villains I'd like to see on a semi-regular basis are Black Spider, Trickster, Silver Deer, Mirage, Lady Lunar, Spook, Onyx, Matter Master, and Silver Swan.

Speedy was an excellent diversion for two issues, sparing us Rick Flag and Ben Turner. Here I can see Katana, the Creeper, King Faraday, Black Lightning, reuniting with Flag, Animal Man, Dane Dorrance, Dolphin.

Anais Andrzejev
PO Box 505
Northport, NY 11768

Lots of comments and suggestions, so let me answer a few of the key ones. Rick Flag has always held himself tight; it's why he never noticed Nightshade's romantic feelings. He has sunk even further into himself with Karin's death. He has a lot of guilt and pain and no one has reached him. You'll notice that this has been picked up on by other members over the last few issues, and we will continue to watch Rick deteriorate over the next few. What will happen when he hits bottom is anyone's bet (but John and I aren't telling!).

We haven't confined ourselves to any handful of series to pluck potential members from, but some series have larger casts than others. Of the people you mentioned, a few are possibilities, although our lineup for the next few months is already hammered into place.

* * * * *

Friends,

I have given the SUICIDE SQUAD my loyal support since the beginning and look forward to every issue. On my weekly trip to the bookstore I stepped up to the counter and slapped down my 75¢ for the latest issue and then it hit me. *Pow!* $1.

Although I might have to cut back on another book now, I'll be sticking with you for the duration. The only thing that hurts is that you offered no explanation for the increase.

What gives?

Troy Wayne Bergeron
28 Joe Baker Lane
Dartmouth, MA 02748

Unlike all other price increases, this is the first time since the early 1960s we have not moved the entire line up in price at the same time. Much of the reason behind the current increases remain the same: higher printing, production and editorial costs (mostly attributed to sharply rising paper prices). That's life. However, since the comics market has changed dramatically since the last increase, we didn't have to convert the line overnight. Instead, we've shifted a few titles every now and then, plus launched new titles at the higher prices. However, SUPERMAN, BATMAN, and a few others remain at 75¢, so there are still some bargains left in comics.

* * * * *

Dear Sir,

I have been meaning to write and tell you how much I enjoyed SUICIDE SQUAD. It has been a pleasant

surprise; I was expecting a book whose only reason for existence was the bump-off for many second-rate characters and others who did not fit into the new, Crisis-altered DC Universe. Instead, the Suicide Squad has become one of the best-written and consistently interesting books on the market.

My opinion of the book drastically changed when I saw the DOOM PATROL/SUICIDE SQUAD SPECIAL. Not only was this possibly the worst comic book I have read this year, but it conformed exactly to my initial fears about what type of comic the SUICIDE SQUAD would be. In this comic, you took four characters, never before used in the Squad, and eliminated them, claiming, in your notes on the issue, that these were characters that had outlived their usefulness in the DC Universe. I strongly disagree with that remark; I don't think that one person is in the position to decide that a great character like the Thinker has outlived his usefulness. The Thinker has consistently been one of my favorite villains, although he has rarely been used recently. To add insult to injury, Flag proceeded to use his helmet for the rest of the issue. Do not ever use his helmet again unless you plan on having the real Thinker wear it; I am very tired of seeing a character's costume and name used on someone else. This seems to be a real trend at DC; it needs to be stopped. Now that the Doom Patrol has its own book, it seemed especially wasteful to eliminate Mr. 104; hopefully, both he and the Thinker can be revived. You also succeeded in making Psi a fairly interesting character; I would have liked to have seen more of her before her untimely end. I was very interested by the Thinker's comment that he was going to help her when this mission was over. I would have liked to seen this followed up on. Finally, although I will admit that the Weasel will not be missed, Ostrander's war against old Firestorm villains has got to stop. Are there any pre-Ostrander Firestorm villains still alive?

The most unrealistic aspect of the book was that while the entire Squad got wiped out, not a single one of the Doom Patrol got injured. This is really too much.

The current storyline has been excellent. I would like to see more of the land of the Nightshade. Although I enjoyed the scenes with Boomerang, I think you could have been less explicit about the fact that he was vomiting. The scene with Boomerang and Deadshot, where you can actually see a mysterious green substance on Boomerang's face, was not needed. Also, it would be a nice contrast if you occasionally depicted him in a more positive manner. He is not total scum.

Jeff Blomster
New Haven, CT

Gee, Jeff, I'm sorry you felt a 78-year-old man still had potential as an active super-villain. You're forgetting that the Thinker has been busy since the 1940s and started out as a hardened criminal type. We felt it was more interesting to see him go out in a blaze of glory, keep the helmet around and find someone a bit more youthful for the role of the Thinker. The Weasel was a total psychopath and Psi was an innocent trapped with powers she didn't fully understand, so of course these three died while the more experienced Doom Patrolers got a few bumps and bruises. Oh well, that story is well in the past.

And yes, there are many Firestorm villains left: Killer Frost, Enforcer, Breathtaker, Silver Deer, Black Bison, Slipknot, among others.

The tendency to take tired characters and revitalize them by either giving the name to a new person or thoroughly rethinking the character has been a hallmark of DC since SHOWCASE #4, and we're not about to abandon it.

* * * * *

Dear Mr. Ostrander,

SUICIDE SQUAD is a reasonably good title but is altogether unbalanced in the direction of constant fighting. The stakes in all these multi-issue-long battles are getting lost in the shuffle, or at least seem somehow nebulous to me because I have so little sense of any character save Captain Boomerang (who I think is at risk of being *over*used at this point). I don't necessarily want a lot of dramatic posturing and moody self-exposition, but I do want you to invest more space in showing the characters for what they are. Snappy patter through one brawl after another is wearing thin as a substitute for legitimate characterization. I don't mean to sound completely negative; I like this title because it is farily original and imaginative. But I want to see some of that imagination applied to other areas that aren't finding their way into this book at the moment.

Aaron Atwood
3333 Kins Row
Eugene, OR 97401

* * * * *

Dear Mr. Ostrander,

This letter is regarding the villains and heroes alike that I would like to see make appearances in SUICIDE SQUAD. First the heroes: I'm with Kenneth Cockrel on this. I, too, would like to see Wild Dog and Peacemaker in the Suicide Squad, for I think they would fit right in. Also, I would like to see appearances by Vigilante, Judomaster, the Question, the Spectre, and Red Star. I can't speak for all of the readers out here in readerland, but I think these heroes that I have named would make great guest stars in the SS, but please *don't* have a crossover with CHECKMATE! I don't collect CHECKMATE! so therefore I wouldn't care to see them in the SUICIDE SQUAD, but I wouldn't mind if Black Thorn made a single appearance. Also, I *would* like to see a crossover with ANIMAL MAN, MANHUNTER, or POWER OF THE ATOM.

Now, the villains I would like to see in SS: The Trickster, Weather Wizard, Black Adam, DeathBolt, Solomon Grundy, Rainbow Raider, Bolt, Dr. Spectro, Poison Ivy, Pied Piper, and another appearance by both Chronos and the Javelin.

Now, I have a question about the Wall's problem with Tolliver and Cray. Why doesn't she just have Deadshot kill 'em?

Well, Mr. Ostrander, I better let you go, but before I do, I would just like to let you know that I think that you are the best writer that DC has and that you are the second-best writer in comics today, second only to Larry Hama.

Marson Fedrick
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Thanks for the nice words, Marson, you have John blushing and demanding a raise.

You should be happy to know that a crossover with MANHUNTER is occurring this very week and Rick Flag should be meeting Animal Man in a few months. Stay tuned. However, since Checkmate and Suicide Squad are two divisions of the same organization, a crossover is inevitable and should be happening in early '89. We promise it'll be exciting and worth your money.

Bolt is turning up in STARMAN in just two weeks, so we can't use him here, and Chronos is back in POWER OF THE ATOM. Speaking of crossovers, John and POTA writer Roger Stern are planning a doozy of a crossover, between not SS and POTA, but FIRESTORM and STARMAN.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Okay, to review once more: this issue of SUICIDE SQUAD should be read after this week's MANHUNTER. Also, this week, Captain Boomerang and Captain Cold turn up for a Rogues' Gallery reunion in FLASH #19. Next week, we have DEADSHOT #2, which picks up the pace a bit and we get to meet Floyd Lawton's father. In just three weeks, SUICIDE SQUAD #20 will resolve the Captain Boomerang-Mirror Master mess once and for all. And if that's not enough, we still publish 50 other titles this month, so there must be something you want to read.

Until we see you again, in one of these mags, keep smiling!

—Bob Greenberger